

Ideas for Cooperation Along the Silk Road

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Honored Schiller Institute President Mrs. LaRouche, honorable experts, distinguished friends, hello.

I am from Beijing, China, a senior research fellow of the China Institute of International Studies. Today, I'm very happy to be able to attend the Schiller Institute's 30th anniversary conference.

Within China, I've attended many conferences on "One Belt and One Road." However, this is the first time that I've attended a conference outside of China that touches upon China's governmental policy and international diplomacy. So, very importantly, I must earnestly express my heartfelt thank you to Mrs. LaRouche, for having provided me with such a great opportunity to introduce to you the relevant concepts and thoughts of our "Silk Road Economic Belt."

Mrs. LaRouche is someone who, in China, is received by everyone as a much-liked and respected social activist. I have, in many of China's media outlets, read her speeches and interviews. Her expert opinion regarding China is something that I deeply respect. And as a friend of China and the Chinese people, she has provided many sincere and earnest ideas towards China's development. So, we very much honor and respect such an old friend of China.

Today, I will discuss some of my thoughts on the "New Silk Road Economic Belt" innovation. Everyone knows that in 2013, our Chinese leader [President Xi Jinping] presented two very important development proposals: the Silk Road Economic Corridor and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road. These two new proposals are to develop and deepen cooperation in a new form, and have very meaningful implications for the development of the relationships between China and the other nations along the New Silk Road. So,



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Shi Ze described China's new "One Belt, One Road" policy as introducing "a new era with a grand conception of deepening China's cooperation with the outside world."

how do we actualize these ideas that China's leader proposed?

I. The Concept of Innovation

First, from the standpoint of ideas and concepts, we must have innovation. In the detailed development of the New Silk Road Project, we must also have innovation in the implementation. So the topic of my speech today is "The Silk Road Economic Corridor and the Innovations on its Conceptualization and Implementation." I'd like to discuss its four main points.

First point, the innovation in conceptualization/outlook: In the innovation of conceptualization, I'd like to emphasize three areas. Firstly, China, in the course of its "reform and opening up," initially adopted a "bringing-in" strategy, that is, to attract outside countries' technology and investment to carry out development in China. We call it a policy of "hitching a ride," to draw in support from international assistance to push forward our economic development. This policy, at the beginning of our opening up of China, achieved obvious results in developing China. A lot of international financial organizations and friendly nations came to China to invest and engage in economic cooperation.

The second phase, is the “going-out” strategy. That is, to better accelerate the development of China’s economic policies, we pushed for our Chinese companies and enterprises to go out, to go abroad to do international development, to develop everywhere in the world; to go out for international economic cooperation. This, I think, has had very obvious results in the recent past. This used national resources very well, to go abroad and allow Chinese enterprises to learn more advanced technology. This advanced our R&D capability and facilitated the foundation for our own advancement. So in the “going-out,” we broadened and expanded the scope of our “reform and opening up,” increasing the scale and the momentum of economic development.

At this point, the central government proposed the New Silk Road Economic Development Corridor—the “One Belt and One Road” strategic concept, which lawfully took the foundation brought about from the “bringing-in” and the “going-out” strategies, and both expanded and merged the two concepts. So, when China’s friends study our “One Belt, One Road” development proposal, this policy possesses a much broader and richer conceptual significance. This is the innovation on the conceptual level.

The second innovation in conceptualization: Following China’s own economic development, in what way do we adapt to the needs of our own “reform and opening up,” while at the same time, interacting in a process with the countries on our periphery and along the Corridor, giving them a share in the benefits of our own development, and then proceeding in broadening collaboration between China and the other countries of the world, in order to achieve our common development? That is, to allow our cooperation to achieve mutual and equal benefit. This is not that China alone is receiving benefit, but rather, how in our cooperation, we all share in the development dividends. This is a very important shift in development of China’s international policy.

Furthermore, our leaders have brought about a new concept of “benefit.” That is, in terms of “profit/benefit,” to consider how we, in our cooperation with our partners, allow our partners to achieve benefit and development, so that our partners will not receive diminished benefits against what we achieve in the course of our cooperation. This is something that our leaders, especially President Xi Jinping, have recently empha-

sized as the necessary outlook for our cooperation with other nations. And I think that in our “New Silk Road Economic Development,” he also emphasized a very important concept—that this kind of development must be both balanced and equal; that this is not only China having increased development, but rather, that in the course of this cooperation, it will allow our partners to benefit.

This is important, because recently some friends have said to me that China’s proposal of the New Silk Road only considered how it will be beneficial to China. I think that is only half right. That is, any proposal for China’s international development project will, of course, consider the benefit that it will have for China. But, we are also considering its benefit to our cooperative partner, and that it is both a mutual and equal pace of development for our partners.

Thirdly, in sponsoring the “One Belt, One Road” policy, our leaders emphasize the concept of the “Three No’s.” That is, first, we do not interfere in the internal affairs of other nations; second, that China does not seek to increase the so called “sphere of influence”; and third, China does not strive for hegemony or dominance. That is, we are all equal partners. So our leaders are proposing this “Three No’s” concept. I think that for all of our friends present today at this conference, this is something to heavily emphasize about China’s foreign policy, that it is on the basis of “peaceful development” with others.

I think that the promotion of the New Silk Road Project reflects how China seeks to position itself internationally—to propose such an important concept and such an innovative proposal, China is looking at how we seek to align ourselves in our relationship with the international community. This is to say, after the Cold War, in the Eurasian region, we are seeking to provide equilibrium.

In this area, all the major countries, including China, Russia, the United States, and the European Union, there exists a situation of checks and balances among the major powers, where not one, single, major country in Eurasia has dominance. China’s goal, in promoting the “One Belt and One Road,” is not to disrupt this equilibrium in the Eurasian area, but rather, to ensure its stability. We seek that each region form and develop mutual assistance, mutual friendship, and mutual cooperation. This, I think, is a necessary development, is a necessary basis, and precondition, as

well as reason, for our development of the New Silk Road Project.

I would like to say a few more words about the fact that in the Eurasian region, there are many regional economic cooperatives, including the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and others. What are the relationships among these organizations? I don't think that these organizations are there to negate or work against each other. Rather, I feel that these organizations are there to learn to work with, to cooperate with each other, to benefit from each other, to motivate each of these cooperatives to invest in our mutually beneficial development. Only that way, can our New Silk Road Economic Corridor have real development.

So, I feel that our New Silk Road Economic Corridor is a proposal that is spearheading and opening possibilities, rather than the closing or blocking out relationships. Today in the audience, we have mostly European friends, and our New Silk Road Economic Corridor's basis is that Europe will be at one end of its center, and China at the other end. It's just like a linked dumbbell; the development of this corridor between China and Europe not only will strengthen both Europe and China on each end, but will bring about the social and economic development in all of the regions of Central Asia, South Asia, Middle East, and Eastern Europe.

So, I think that the New Silk Road Economic Corridor can have a direct impact and importance to the European nations. The European nations in this regard, already have a great foundation in their technological basis, and the New Silk Road Corridor is something that we think will greatly develop all of these nations. Again, we must emphasize that in promoting the New Silk Road Corridor, we seek friendly cooperation with all major nations—finding common ground while existing differently. This is central to our conception. So, we do not oppose the United States, or Russia, or Eu-



Xinhua/Huang Jingwen

“One Road and One Belt” is beneficial for China, and at the same time, “promotes and advances economic cooperation in Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and Southwest Asia,” Shi said. Here, Chinese President Xi Jinping visits the ancient Ulugh Beg Observatory in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, with President Islam Karimov, September 2013.

ropean nations joining us in this. We welcome all nations.

III. A Cooperative Model of Innovation

My second major point is that for our New Silk Road Corridor's “One Road, One Belt” concept, I'd like to emphasize the question of how to innovate on a model of cooperation.

How do we advance the building of “One Belt, One Road”? Typically, whether in discussions inside or outside China, when people talk about the overarching idea of the New Silk Road, the discussion centers more on the practical concepts. When China makes the proposal, what is the content of its proposal, as in, “what regions will it cover,” or “what is China's goal.” But what we often leave out is, how do we cooperate together? That is, what is the model for cooperation? How do you develop cooperation? If we don't solve that question, in actuality, this initiative will not be realized.

So, I think the point to emphasize is that when we consider how we promote the New Silk Road Project—the level of economic development in these areas surrounding the Corridor is very different. There are de-

veloped nations, large countries, relatively developed nations, and some underdeveloped nations. So, under the condition of very large differences in the level of economic development among these nations, to push forward the process of this project, I think, involves high degrees of difficulty.

We are not proposing that in the future three or five years, or even ten years, we will have already developed the New Silk Road Corridor Project. This is a long-term goal on the part of China. It has no definite end. Where and when we can push forward the cooperation, we will. So, when China promotes the New Silk Road initiative, this not on the basis of force. Our cooperation partners are only those who freely and willingly join us in this project. Whoever is interested is welcome to join us.

Also, for those joining us in the project, we want for each to enjoy equal privilege. So the New Silk Road Project, for any nation, is a development opportunity, utilizing China's "Opening Up" policy to broaden each other's economic cooperation. This provides all kinds of opportunity for entrepreneurship and employment.

So what is the cooperative model? In the Eurasian region, the economic development level is varied, unlike the European region, which is mostly developed. Second, in the course of considering the model of cooperation, when we talk about the Eurasian region, we're talking about a process of strengthening the region. It is not like some of the other existing economic regions around the world, where the purpose is that of "expansion" or "encompassing."

For example, the ASEAN or EU cooperation, or Latin American cooperation—they are all a kind of "encompassing." However, our emphasis for the Eurasian region is that of strengthening it. So, whether we can use ASEAN or EU or the Latin American experience, I think that we do not exclude their experience. We must study and learn from them. More importantly, we must enjoin the unique potential of our various regions along the corridor. I think the important thing for us is how do we set up our cooperation? That is, this process of strengthening the region, how do we go about it? We cannot simply take from the existing models.

Often, economic experts, even our own in China, take the Western European model and attempt to simply impose the whole of that model on the new concept.

Well, we don't reject others' models, but we must seek to develop new ones. In this regard, I very much hope that our European friends will provide us with their thoughts and new suggestions.

So this New Silk Road Project is very new, and has little precedent in world history. The regions that it encompasses are many; the length of the Corridor is very great; the countries that it will reach are many. So, there is no precedent. The road in front of us is that we must innovate, we must develop new ideas and thoughts, to find a way that would work for the common goals and aspirations of China, and the nations along the New Silk Road Corridor.

III. The Content of Development

Third point: I would like to talk about the content of cooperation for our New Silk Road Corridor.

First, I talked about conceptualization and methodology. Now, I will talk about the details of the areas for development, the content of development. I must again emphasize that building the "One Belt, One Road" long-term process of development is not something to be finished in a few years. We are very clear about that. There are opportunities, and at the same time, there are challenges. So we must retain a clear head about this.

In the process of building the "One Belt, One Road," in the innovation of the character of its development, there are a few elements that must be noted and emphasized. Our efforts must first be put to energy resources, the transportation grid, electricity systems, communications networks, other such basic infrastructure platforms, and the networking together of such platforms.

There is a saying in China, "to develop wealth, you have to first build roads." The development corridor's economy can only prosper when human resources, logistics, and economics have all been brought on-line and integrated. These basic conditions must be there.

In promoting the development of the "One Belt, One Road," we are not talking about creating a new cooperation mechanism. I must emphasize this. Rather, we are building on the foundation of existing regional cooperation, ever expanding the scope. This is a cooperative process, not imposing any specific kind of mechanism over the process.

Second, we must improve and strengthen each nation's development strategy and development planning,

as well as advance the mutual communication and integration of these improvements. We do this so that nations can understand what each other's next five- to ten-year development goals are, and cooperate on that basis—what areas of your strategy are similar to mine—and we must find particular areas and projects for cooperation on the basis of those mutual and common strategies.

China, in promoting the “One Belt, One Road,” is not seeking unilateral oneness. We only seek to push forward the process of cooperation. Third, I think that in the course of cooperation, we must walk on the frontier of technological advancement. We must nurture and pay serious attention to the most advanced scientific achievements that are being developed in the world. We must take the existing level of development in the Eurasian region and carry out large-scale cooperation on a non-natural-resource-taking and non-energy-resource-taking basis. Because in the Eurasian region, each nation's economic endowment—its national and natural resources—plays a large role in existing cooperation.

I think that there is not enough cooperation based on non-natural resources. This means especially, the development of agriculture, of infrastructure, of the manufacturing industry, which I think are all areas of needed improvement. We must emphasize cooperation based on non-natural resource-taking, so that it will allow our economic advancement to reach a new high standard of cooperation.

Lastly, I must place emphasis on the multi-sided attributes for our “One Belt, One Road.” We must emphasize high-level, multi-dimensional cooperation. For example, we can and should, for the nations along the Silk Road Corridor, develop the effect of “city alliances.” We should develop urban-industry alliances—for example, international railroad associations, international transportation associations and other similar associations, including international cooperative-network associations. That is, to develop cross-regional, existing industry cooperation, so as to develop bilateral or multilateral cooperative networks and cooperation systems.

At the same time, China encourages plans and programs that would develop the “One Belt, One Road” proposal, even if they do not include China as a participant. So that some of the programs China will not participate in, but such programs will be beneficial to all.

What we seek is to be able to promote regional development, and any such program that develops regional economy, China supports. It is not that we will only support those programs that China participates in. No: Programs that belong to and are developed by others, we also support. So we seek an inclusive and open cooperation framework.

IV. Innovation of the System

The “One Belt, One Road” is a grand vision. For China, the challenges are great. First, it not only touches on the necessary cooperation of some of the regions and department within China, but also on China's overseas organizations and entities. It not only concerns the domestic interests and prerogatives of each region and department, but also private and state-owned enterprises abroad, as well as international enterprises with multi-income and -profit sources. And we must consider the development of these multi-profit sources. We must consider coordination between these national and international policies.

In order to facilitate the development of the New Silk Road Corridor, our central government has been compelled to increase the pace and reform of our economic system, so that this system can better facilitate the development of the New Silk Road Corridor.

In promoting the New Silk Road, we have taken examples from how other nations have carried out their international strategy. For example, the United States, in conducting its own “New Silk Road Plan,” looked at South Asia and Central Asia as an entity with regard to its own development needs, and combined the original Department of Central Asian Affairs and the Department of South Asian Affairs into a single Department of South and Central Asian Affairs. I think that this kind of experience is something that we can learn from.

Russia, to promote the development of the Far East, and regional cooperation, created the Ministry for Development of the Russian Far East. In like manner, we intend to take those examples that suit the development of the “One Belt, One Road” system and utilize them to develop our proposal.

So, in the future, in the course of our development of the “One Belt, One Road,” we earnestly hope to work with the international community, the various nations, the different regions, and on the basis of equal and mutual developments, to promote a program that benefits all of mankind.